

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 13, 1991

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-66-91

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE AUTOMATED WELFARE SYSTEM (SAWS) NEWS

MAGIC and NAPAS have moved into the final stages of system development and we are beginning the historic task of transferring these systems to the other counties in the State. SAWS NEWS will be a regular communique that provides information on automation policy decisions, SAWS pilot status, transfer updates and answers to questions that are raised regarding SAWS options and issues. These letters will be co-authored by Dennis Boyle and the Directors of the pilot counties, Dan Corsello and John Cullen.

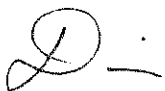
Currently both MAGIC and NAPAS are in case conversion and moving to full implementation. Effective June 10, 1991 all new cases and transfers are worked under the automated system in Napa County. Caseload conversion is expected to take three to six months depending on other workload. Merced County projects that MAGIC will be fully implemented, and all cases converted, in approximately three to four months. Both systems are meeting SAWS requirements and promise to be viable transfer options for California counties.

Work is underway to transfer the NAPAS system to its first group of transfer counties. A request for planning funds has been completed and, with Federal approval, work will commence on the Advance Planning Document (APD) and Request for Proposal (RFP) process for transfer. Work is also progressing on the transfer of MAGIC to the first group of roll-out counties. Fourteen counties, representing both Case Data and non-Case Data counties, have formed a work group to develop the APD and RFP necessary to effect transfer. The State also plans to install NAPAS, MAGIC or both at the Health and Welfare Data Center. This will allow counties who choose not to operate their own systems another option for implementing SAWS. Counties will also have an option to purchase welfare automation services from other data centers should this best meet their needs. All plans for transfer of the SAWS pilots, their interim system support and the speed by which transfer will be completed are subject to the outcome of the State budget process and Federal negotiations and approvals.

In order to comply with a recent Federal requirement, SAWS staff have developed a master plan for the statewide implementation of SAWS. This plan shows which system each county will take and the year that the transfer will occur based on conversations with counties during the last few months. This plan is by no means cast in concrete and counties still have the opportunity to select the best SAWS solution for their needs. The selection of the appropriate SAWS system for your county is perhaps the most critical and significant decision in which you will participate over the next several years. You cannot afford to make a mistake. You must consider all of the available SAWS options and choose the best possible solution for your county.

At this point, we are continuing to count on having only the normal sharing ratio from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Nutrition Service to fund the SAWS project. We are still pursuing full enhanced funding with both agencies, but we are not delaying automation in California to await the outcome of our efforts.

As we enter the planning phase for the transfer of SAWS, numerous concerns, issues and perhaps even a rumor or two are bound to surface. A successful transfer depends on a consistent and accurate flow of information between the Federal agencies, the State, the counties and the vendor community. In order to expedite a successful transfer, we encourage you to raise issues, questions, concepts and concerns which you believe need to be addressed. Questions of general interest will be addressed in future editions of this letter. Write directly to Dennis Boyle; he will see that you receive accurate answers in as timely a manner as possible. He encourages you to call him personally with issues of an urgent nature.



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